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## Germany's Part in World Reconstruction

By FRAULEIN GERTRUD BAER

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ONE of the most important factors in restoring the balance of Europe and the world is that part to be played by Germany. Is Germany going to base her system on the old methods of autocracy and secret diplomacy, or is she willing to coöperate in the concert of European powers?

Germany today is a republic, a democracy based on her new constitution. But that is not enough. This new democratic constitution must be carried out in a democratic spirit; her political system must be based on non-violence and understanding. This is in the view of all forward-looking German men and women the only way for her to win the confidence of the world. For all of us in Germany who knew the mentality of pre-war and war-Germany, realize that the organization of the world depends just as much, at least, on moral principles and forces as on economic. In order to rebuild Germany, some synthesis of economic and moral energies, therefore, must be found.

Germany has gone through so many changes and upheavals during the War and during the revolution, that she has to concentrate much of her work on the resettling of her internal affairs, but the test for a political renewal is largely her management of foreign policies. We have, as you know, at the head of our department of Foreign Policies Dr. Walter Rathenau, a very able man who merits the confidence of the world, since he is willing to coöperate with our neighbors on the basis of negotiations and mutual understanding.

When I left Europe I heard of the

treaty between Germany and Russia that had just been drafted at Genoa. As I was on board ship I did not see its text, but I hope it is based on full renunciation of profit on either side and on organization and reciprocity.

Russia has an immense stock of goods which Germany needs, just as Russia needs Germany's technical skill and initiative. It was the fear of Bolshevism in Germany, as in some of the other countries, that up until very recently prevented an alliance with Russia, but is not Bolshevism a symptom of sickness at the soul of the Russian people, just as militarism was of the body of the German people? Both will be abolished if the barriers are laid down and a free exchange of goods is guaranteed.

Reciprocity is the basis of all foreign policies today. German relations to Russia will be greatly facilitated by the new agreement between Poland and Germany, according to which the liberty of transit through the territory of Poland is granted for goods passing between Germany and Russia.

One of the most important steps in the direction of the peaceful development, not only of Germany but of the whole Continent, is the solution of the Upper Silesian question. You will remember that this question was referred by the Supreme Council to the Council of the League of Nations, after England and France, as a result of the unsatisfactory plebiscite, were unable to agree on the frontier between Germany and Poland. Three towns with a German-speaking population, Kattowitz, Beuthen and Koenigshutte, I think they were, had been given

over to Poland. The text of the new treaty has not yet been published in American papers, but one of the most important points of it is that the troops will now be withdrawn on either side, for during the last month this corner of Europe has been in constant danger of new atrocities and cruelties on both sides. I hope that the withdrawal of the troops will stop new complications. It is the Upper Silesian question, more than any other, which shows only too clearly that conflicts will never be settled by brute force. Brute force

breeds brute force, which means destruction; what Europe needs today is productive work and peaceful reconstruction.

The problems of Europe are the problems of the world. America is involved in them. The rehabilitation of Germany, as of Europe, is dependent on America. Thus her coöperation with Germany is needed. Free exchange of goods on the basis of free trade is the only solution of the economic chaos. Free trade makes for international peace and relationships.